

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 3, and add new claims 5-12 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A blasting method of blasting an explosive device at least containing an explosive and a chemical agent and being placed in a sealed pressure vessel, comprising:
  - evacuating the pressure vessel into a reduced-pressure or vacuum state;
  - feeding and enclosing such a particular, before blasting, an amount of oxygen in the evacuated pressure vessel which is equal to or more than an amount sufficient (1) to provide a positive ~~that the~~ oxygen balance in the pressure vessel for blasting becomes positive and (2) to provide the pressure in the pressure vessel after blasting as becomes lower than ~~[[the]]~~ a pressure outside the pressure vessel; and
  - blasting the explosive device therein.
2. (Original) The blasting method according to Claim 1, wherein the particular amount of oxygen is supplied as oxygen gas.
3. (Currently Amended) The blasting method according to Claim 1, wherein part or all of the ~~particular~~ amount of oxygen is supplied ~~[[as]]~~ from an ~~oxygen-containing~~ alkali metal peroxide compound or an alkali-earth metal peroxide compound.
4. (Previously Presented) The blasting method according to Claim 1, wherein the particular amount of oxygen is an amount of oxygen gas at which the oxygen gas pressure, as calculated as oxygen gas, becomes equivalent to 15% to 30% of the atmospheric pressure at normal temperature.
5. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 1, further comprising: cleaning the pressure vessel with a decontaminating agent after the blasting step, while keeping the pressure in the blasting chamber negative.
6. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 1, wherein said explosive device is a chemical weapon.

7. (New) A blasting method of blasting an explosive device at least containing an explosive and a chemical agent and being placed in a sealed pressure vessel, comprising:
  - evacuating the pressure vessel into a reduced-pressure or vacuum state;
  - feeding and enclosing, before blasting, an amount of oxygen in the evacuated pressure vessel which is equal to or more than an amount sufficient (1) to convert the explosive and the chemical agent into gases by blasting and (2) to provide the pressure in the pressure vessel after blasting as lower than a pressure outside the pressure vessel; and
  - blasting the explosive device therein.
8. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 7, wherein the particular amount of oxygen is supplied as oxygen gas.
9. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 7, wherein part or all of the amount of oxygen is supplied from an alkali metal peroxide compound or an alkali-earth metal peroxide compound.
10. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 7, wherein the particular amount of oxygen is an amount of oxygen gas at which the oxygen gas pressure, as calculated as oxygen gas, becomes equivalent to 15% to 30% of the atmospheric pressure at normal temperature.
11. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 7, further comprising: cleaning the pressure vessel with a decontaminating agent after the blasting step, while keeping the pressure in the blasting chamber negative.
12. (New) The blasting method according to Claim 7, wherein said explosive device is a chemical weapon.